[The Secretary-General]

(The Deputy Chairman in the Chair)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Madam, I have a submission to make. Before taking up the next item, if you allow the Minister to move this Bill which is reported from the Lok Sabha, it will save time on the last day of the Session.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad hardly every moves any Bill in this House. So, I would abide by your suggestion and I will let him move the Bill. But before that let me take the sense of the House.

THE SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1992.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If Members would agree, before we go into a more controversial issue of the Dunkel proposal, shall we pass this less controversial issue?... (*Interruptions*)

It is regarding increase of the Members' journeys, to and fro..... (*Interruptions*)

I also suggest to Mr. Parliamentary Affairs Minister to suggest to the Minister for Civil Aviation to have the flights so that the Members can take their benefit. It is giving from one pocket and taking away from the other.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Madam Deputy Chairman, that is why I have chosen this time so that they are not able to utilise it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Maharashtra): The Bill does not mention about Indian Airlines.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Madam, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Salary Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I don't think anybody wants to speak on it.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: If you need, I can. ... (*Interruptions*) If they want some details, I can give the details.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him explain.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Madam, the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament has made certain recommendations for increasing the facilities and allowances of the Members of Parliament and regarding pension of ex-Members of Parliament. These recommendations have been carefully considered by the Government. However, in view of the stringent economic situation prevailing in the country at the moment, it is proposed to accept the proposals to provide only for the following:—

> (1) To increase the number of single air journeys from any place in India to any other place in India admissible for Members of Parliament, from 16 to 28 per annum.
>
> (2) To allow unavailed air journeys out of these admissible for Members of Parliament to be utilised for taking one companion or spouse in an air journey.

The acceptance of these two proposals would involve an additional recurring expenditure of approximately Rs. 1.44 crores per annum.

The Bill is very simple and non-controversial. I am sure that it will be passed unanimously.

With these words, I commend the Bill for consideration by this House.

The question was put and the motion was adopted

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up... (*Interruptions*).

Order, please. We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill. Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the title were added to the Bill.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gautam, I hope you are not going to forgo your other flights, twelve flights.

RE: DUNKEL DRAFT TEXT

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri P. J. Kurien to move the Government Motion on the Dunkel draft text. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, we wish to draw the attention of the House and of the Government. (*Interruptions*) Madam, would you kindly call the House to order? (*Interruptions*) Madam, we are about to discuss, perhaps, the most important economic decision this country is about to take, in the history of free India.

Therefore, we suggested in the morning that this Dunkel draft text should be referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee, so that the Joint Parliamentary Committee can study the matter in all its ramifications. We have an apprehension that the Government of India has already capitulated to the powers that be. We are, of course, keen on a debate, but a debate in a hurry, in the House, would not serve the purpose. I, therefore, would like to know from the Government as to whether the Government is prepared to refer the matter to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

I have also an alternative proposal to make. In case the Government has any difficulty in referring the matter to a Joint Parliamentary Committee, I call upon the Government to make a commitment here and now that they would not make any international commitment in regard to the Dunkel draft text until and unless the matter is discussed and decided in Parliament, in the next Session.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what his response is in respect of the two alternative proposals. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let Mr. Jagesh Desai have his say. Then, I will allow others.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Madam, I oppose the proposal for referring this matter to a Joint Parliamentary Committee because it would not serve the purpose. The issue would be discussed there and it would take three-four months. Within this period, at the GATT conference, the whole Dunkel proposals would be passed. Therefore, it would not serve the purpose at all. That is why I want that this House should discuss it. Let us give our views as to what we want to do in this aspect of the matter. Otherwise, the purpose would be lost. I therefore, stoutly oppose the proposal to refer it to a Joint Parliamentary Committee. (*Interruptions*)